

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228367 TOSEC 270158

EXDIS, FOR SAUNDERS FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: STATEMENT ON INAUGURATION OF LEBANESE PRESIDENT

REF: SECTO 27056

1. WITHOUT SUGGESTING ACTUAL PHRASEOLOGY, FOLLOWING ARE
SOME POINTS WE CAN MENTION TO MAKE STATEMENT MORE SPECIFIC
AND CONCRETE:

--WE HAVE INVITED PRESIDENT SARKIS TO SEND A PERSONAL ENVOY
TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS HE CAN SO THAT WE CAN DISCUSS
SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN BE HELPFUL TO SARKIS AND HIS
NEW GOVERNMENT (POSSIBLY IN LAST PARA).

-- THE U.S. WILL BE PREPARED TO HELP EQUIP A LEBANESE
NATIONAL MILITARY FORCE AFTER THE CONFLICT IS CONCLUDED
(AS WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMED THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS).

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-- WE COULD LINK THE REFERENCE IN THIRD ,ARA ABOUT THE

JANUARY-FEBRUARY PRINCIPLES FOR A POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION TO THE STATEMENT IN THE FOURTH PARA RE THE REQUIREMENT FOR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENTS, AND MENTION ILLUSTRATIVELY THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR A MORE REPRESENTATIVE DIVISION OF PARLIAMENT BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MOSLIM AND MORE OPEN OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE SEEMS TO US NOT ONLY SENSIBLE BUT ALSO WOULD TEND TO REINFORCE THE CONCEPT THAT THERE SHOULD BE IN A REUNITED LEBANON A PARTNERSHIP OF EQUALS FOR THE TWO MAJOR CONFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES.

-- THE U.S. HAS RESISTED ALL REQUESTS THAT IT INTERVENE MILITARILY.

-- SUBSTITUTE PARTITION"FOR"DIVISION"IN PHRASE "SOLUTIONS BASED ON THE DIVISION OF THE COUNTRY", AND ALSO NOTE THAT MINI-STATES SO CREATED WOULD NOT BE ECONOMICALLY VIABLE AND WOULD INVITE INTERVENTION AND INSTABILITY.

2. AS FOR THE LAST PARAGRAPH, THE BASIC FACTS ARE AS FOLLOWS. WE SUPPLIED \$2.75 MILLION IN MEDICAL AND RELATED SUPPLIES TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FOR ITS OWN USE AND FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SOME TWELVE OTHER CASUALTY HOSPITALS OPERATING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE. 70,000 POUNDS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE EN ROUTE (ESTIMATED COST NOT AVAILABLE) IN FULFILLMENT OF PREVIOUS REQUESTS. WE HAVE SUPPLIED \$4 MILLION FOR ICRC ACTIVITIES, WHICH INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF MEDICINES, FOODSTUFFS, A 50-BED FIELD HOSPITAL IN WEST BEIRUT, AND MEDICAL TEAMS IN JOUNIEH AND ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. OUR SUBSIDY TO ICRC HAS CONSTITUTED THE MAJOR SINGLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICRC EFFORT. WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED AUH APPROXIMATELY \$2.8 MILLION IN GRANTS TO KEEP THE HOSPITAL RUNNING WHILE IT IS INCURRING HEAVY DEFICITS. IN SHORT, WE HAVE PROVIDED \$9.55 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN AND RELIEF-RELATED PROGRAMS, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE OVER \$10 MILLION BY SEPTEMBER 23, AND WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST TO ENSURE THAT DISTRIBUTION HAS BEEN EQUITABLE.

3. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO INCORPORATE IN FINAL PARA:

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-- WE HAVE PROVIDED MORE THAN \$10 MILLION IN RELIEF AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS, AND WILL DO THIS AND MORE AS NECESSARY.

-- WE ALSO SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONFIRM BY THAT TIME THAT CONGRESS HAS APPROPRIATED \$20 MILLION FOR A FY 1977 HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROGRAM, WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE GEARED TO POSTWAR RECOVERY NEEDS IN LIEU OF WARTIME RELIEF NEEDS.

(FYI: HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE IS ACTING TODAY ON:

(1) \$20 MILLION FOR FY 77 HUMANITARIAN RELIEF SUPPORTED BY
ADMINISTRATION; (2) SEPARATE AMENDMENT FUNDING \$5 MILLION
FOR ICRC, SPONSORED BY SENATOR KENNEDY; (3) SEPARATE
AMENDMENT PROVIDING \$10 MILLION FOR HOSPITAL SHIP SPON-
SORED BY SENATOR ABOUREZK. CONFERENCE REPORT WILL BE OUT
NEXT WEEK. WE SUSPECT ONLY \$20 MILLION WILL SURVIVE.
ADMINISTRATION NOT SUPPORTING HOSPITAL SHIP CONCEPT.
END FYI).

-- WE ARE CONSIDERING WAYS OF MAKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE
SARKIS GOVERNMENT TO SHIP SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF PL 480
WHEAT TO LEBANON WHICH WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED EQUITABLY. ROBINSON

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